UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social
Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.2/1997/4
16 May 1997

Original: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Sub-Commission on Prevention of
Discrimination and Protection
of Minorities
Working Group on Contemporary
Forms of Slavery
Twenty-second session
2-11 June 1997

Note by the Secretariat

The present note contains the recommendations adopted by the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery at its third session, held in Geneva from 17 to 19 March 1997, as transmitted to the Secretary-General for his approval. These recommendations were approved by the Secretary-General on 27 March 1997.

GE.97-12616 (E)

RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTARY FUND ON CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF SLAVERY AT ITS THIRD SESSION

(Geneva, 17-19 March 1997)

Recommendations for grants

1. The projects recommended to the Secretary-General, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/122, are carried out in **nine** countries. In accordance with the mandate of the Fund, the Board's recommendations focus on assisting representatives of non-governmental organizations from different regions, dealing with issues of contemporary forms of slavery, to participate in the deliberations of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, as well as on supporting programmes that provide, through established channels of assistance, humanitarian, legal and financial aid to individuals whose human rights have been severely violated as a result of contemporary forms of slavery.

2. The Board has received 12 travel proposals and 12 project proposals for grants to be disbursed in 1997. The recommendations adopted by the Board concern **six** travel grants and **three** project grants.

3. The Board recommends to the Secretary-General that **US$ 13,600** be spent for travel grants and **US$ 10,250** for project grants, for a total of **US$ 23,850** to be disbursed before its fourth session, scheduled to be held in March 1998. Of this amount, **US$ 20,850** should be released as soon as this recommendation is approved. All travel grants have to be released before the 1997 session of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, to be held from 2 to 11 June. Project grant (PG.10) of US$ 3,000 could be released upon receipt of satisfactory information by the Secretariat.

4. The Board also recommended that, upon receipt of new voluntary contributions before the next session of the Working Group, the Secretariat release two additional travel grants for a total of US$ 4,200.

Fund-raising

5. The Board is grateful to the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr. José Ayala-Lasso, for writing letters on Human Rights Day (10 December 1996) to the permanent missions of all States to ask them to contribute to the Fund.

6. The Board started a fund-raising campaign during the present session. Board members met with interested donors both during the Board's session on 19 March and at the ongoing session of the Commission on Human Rights on 17 and 18 March. The Board mandated its Chairman, Swami Agnivesh, to present its activities and the financial situation of the Fund at the meeting on Monday, 24 March, during the introduction of the relevant item of the agenda of the Commission.

7. The Board recommended to its secretariat various measures to raise funds including: establishing contacts with several Governments, United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes, private foundations and non-governmental organizations; the drafting of a short letter by the High Commissioner to the members in which he would describe the serious situation of slavery in the world today, the follow-up taken to implement the recommendations of the Board and the serious financial difficulties faced by the Fund, and asking the support of the Board members in raising funds.

8. The Board expressed its gratitude and appreciation to Air India for its contribution of a free round-trip ticket for the the Chairman of the Board to attend the third session of the Board in Geneva. This saved the Fund about US$ 2,000 which were added to the amounts earmarked for grants. This gesture encouraged the other members of the Board to approach various airline companies with a view to obtaining similar contributions in future.

9. The Board would appreciate if the Secretariat could envisage authorizing the cheapest mode of travel (for instance at excursion fare) both for members of the Board and as travel grants for representatives of NGOs, including the reimbursement of tickets purchased in the country of origin of the travellers.

Organization of the Board's sessions

10. The Board appreciated the decision of the Secretary-General to extend the mandate of three of its former members and to appoint two new members, which allowed the Board to hold its session in 1997. The Board also appreciated the organization of its session by the High Commissioner/Centre for Human Rights, in March, which allowed all the members to meet with members and observers at the Commission on Human Rights and with a member of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery.

11. As a principle, the Board recommended that it should meet every year, during the session of the Commission on Human Rights. The Chairman or a member of the Board should be given an opportunity to deliver a statement to the Commission under the relevant agenda item in order to inform the Commission about its work.

12. At the first meeting of its annual session, the Board should continue to be provided with the exact figures of the funds available for grants, contributions received and pledges made, as well as the grants disbursed and the amount, in United States dollars, of new requests for grants received.

13. Meetings should be organized with representatives of Governments, relevant United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes, intergovernmental organizations and international NGOs interested in paying voluntary contributions (donors); NGOs interested in applying for grants, raising awareness about the mandate of the Fund, supporting the Board in its fund-raising campaign, or acting as established channels of assistance; the members and the secretary of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery; and the Chairman or other members of the boards of trustees of other trust and voluntary funds, if present in Geneva.

Cooperation with the Working Group

14. All members should receive an invitation to attend the annual session of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, preferably two months before the session, even though travel costs for only one member might be available.

15. The Secretariat should make sure that the Working Group includes in its agenda the evidence presented by representatives of NGOs selected by the Board.

16. The Secretariat should inform the Board about priority areas that the Working Group could identify within the framework of its mandate for the next three years, so that the Board can take them into consideration in its selection of applications for travel grants. Such focus was deemed important by the Board's members in respect of their fund-raising efforts. The Working Group may also wish to single out the countries on which it would like to obtain more information.

Recommendations of the Board during the inter-sessional period

17. Relevant information which would allow making recommendations during the inter-sessional period will be sent to each member of the Board.

18. Recommendations can be validly adopted during the inter-sessional period by the Chairman and two other members including, when necessary, the member from the region concerned.

19. Regardless of the dates of the next session, being subject to the availability of funds, the Board should continue to function until the end of the term of office of its members, i.e. 31 December 1998.

20. The Board encouraged the collaboration between the secretariat of the Fund and bodies such as UNICEF, UNDP and ILO, particularly in the field. The secretariat of the Fund should benefit from the effective cooperation of the High Commissioner/Centre for Human Rights and other United Nations offices in the field in matters relating to the confidential transmission of information from and to project leaders and the control of the use of grants disbursed.

Assistance to NGOs attending the Working Group's session

21. The Secretariat should contact international NGOs based in Geneva, such as the World Council of Churches, which have premises available at a low price, in order to accommodate the NGO representatives selected to attend the session of the Working Group.

22. Based on the practice of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations, the Board recommended that the per diem for representatives of NGOs attending the Working Group's session be limited to Sw F 150 (about US$ 100).

23. NGOs should be requested to respect as much as possible a gender balance and to send women representatives.

24. NGOs should be requested to mention whether they authorize the Secretariat to publish information concerning their project, if funded, in the reports of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Board and the Fund, or if confidentiality is needed.

ANNEX

(a) Consolidated list of recommendations concerning projects and travel grants adopted by the Board on 19 March 1997

(all figures in US$)

A. Project grants

PG.1	5 500
PG.8	1 750
PG.10	3 000
Subtotal	10 250

B. Travel grants

TG.4	1 500
TG.8(&P.7)	3 000
TG.9	1 700
TG.10	2 200
TG.11	2 200
TG.12	3 000
Subtotal	13 600
TOTAL	**23 850**

(b) Details of recommendations for grants

A. Project grants

PG.1	5 500
PG.8	1 750
PG.10	3 000
Subtotal	10 250

Application No. 1: Defence for Children International/Cameroon; assistance to the Baka pygmy children: $5,500 to be released promptly.

Application No. 8: Cambodian Centre for the Protection of Children's Rights; assistance to children victims of trafficking and prostitution: $1,750 to be released promptly.

Application No. 10: World Association for Orphans and Abandoned Children (WAO-Afrique); assistance to children domestic workers in Togo: $3,000, the release of this grant depends upon the condition that WAO provides information to the Secretariat concerning the objectives of the project and indicators which would permit an evaluation of whether the objectives can be implemented, with specific reference to the following two activities: skills or vocational training; seminars and workshops.

B. Travel grants

TG.4	1 500
TG.8(&TG.7)	3 000
TG.9	1 700
TG.10	2 200
TG.11	2 200
TG.12	3 000
Subtotal	13 600

Application No. 4: House Workers' Movement; assistance to female child domestic workers in India; one participant: $1,500 ($1,000 for travel, $500 for per diem for five days); the release of this grant depends upon the condition that the organization confirms that one participant will be able to attend.

Application No. 7: Center Against Violence; prevention and protection against domestic violence against women in Mongolia; and Application No. 8: Mongolian Women Lawyers' Association; protection against domestic violence against women. The release of a grant of $3,000, including air ticket, and $500 per diem for five days depends upon the conditions that: (1) MWLA contacts CAV in order to coordinate the testimony of both organizations to the Working Group and to confirm that one English-speaking participant will be able to attend and represent both organizations; and (2) MWLA indicates to CAV the issues of interest to the Board and the Working Group (sale of children, child prostitution and pornography, exploitation of child labour and debt servitude, traffic in human beings and exploitation of the prostitution of others).

Application No. 9: Tambov Human Rights Group; child slavery, child soldiers and international child adoption: $1,700, including $500 per diem for five days and $1,200 for travel expenses; the release of this grant depends upon the condition that THRG provides satisfactory information and reports on child slavery in the Russian Federation and the organization's action to protect children against slavery-like practices, and that it confirms that one participant will be able to attend.

Application No. 10: Cambodian Centre for the Protection of Child Rights; assistance to children victims of trafficking and prostitution: $2,200, including $1,700 for travel costs and $500 for per diem for five days; the release of this grant depends upon the condition that the organization confirms that one participant will be able to attend.

Application No. 11: Constitutional Rights Project; child trade in Nigeria: $2,200; the release of this grant depends upon the condition that CRP provides more information on their status, budget and programme of action, and that they fill in and fax their application form with all other relevant information; CRP should send to the Secretariat the 81-page report highlighting the growing incidence of trafficking in children in Nigeria; the grant should be paid through UNDP Nigeria, and CRP should confirm that one participant will be able to attend.

Application No. 12: MAITI, Nepal; rehabilitation of former child prostitutes: $3,000 for one former child prostitute and an interpreter from MAITI ($1,000 x 2 for travel costs, $500 per diem for two persons for five days); the release of this grant depends upon the condition that the organization confirms that the two participants will be able to attend.

(c) Recommendations for travel grants on a contingency list

The Board recommended that upon receipt of new voluntary contributions, the Secretariat could release the following additional travel grants:

Application No. 1: Urban Community Mission, Jakarta; assistance to migrant workers: the Secretariat should reply to the organization on behalf of the Board welcoming their application to testify at the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, indicating that for the moment not enough money is available in the Fund but that the Board appreciated their work and thought that their participation at the Working Group would be useful: $1,700 for travel costs, $500 per diem for one person for five days.

Application No. 5: Defence for Children International/Cameroon; $1,500 for travel costs, $500 per diem for one person for five days.

Contingency list for travel grants

TG.1	2 200
TG.5	2 000
Subtotal	4 200